

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORS, PINS, TU, US
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: POLICE PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 187528

1. DURING MY GET-ACQUAINTED CALL ON MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, KORKUT OZAL, HE OUTLINED IN DETAIL THE DIFFICULTIES HE FACES IN TACKLING TURKEY'S INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS WITH AN ANTIQUATED AND OFTEN INCOMPETENT POLICE FORCE. UPON ASSUMING HIS DUTIES AS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, OZAL SAID, HE ESTABLISHED PRIORITY AREAS FOR POLICE ACTION, WITH ELIMINATION OF ANARCHY AND RESTORATION OF PUBLIC ORDER AT THE TOP OF THE LIST. NARCOTICS IS THIRD ON THE LIST (SEPTEL). IN OUR MEETING, OZAL STRESSED THE DIFFICULTIES HE FACES IN SOLVING THESE AND OTHER PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED CAPABILITY OF THE POLICE AND THE BAD HANDLING OF TURKEY'S LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT CORRUPTION PLAYS A LARGE ROLE IN THWARTING EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT.

2. OZAL COMMENTED THAT THE TURKISH POLICE URGENTLY REQUIRE MODERNIZATION. AT THIS TIME, HE SAID THAT THE NEED IS NOT REPEAT NOT FOR TRAINING BUT FOR ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING WHAT SHOULD BE DONE AND ADVICE FROM AN EXPERT ABOUT HOW IT
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CAN BE DONE. THE MINISTER ADDED THAT HE HAS FUNDS FOR IMPROVING THE POLICE, BUT HE IS RELUCTANT TO BEGIN SPENDING WITHOUT FIRST HAVING A CLEAR IDEA OF WHERE HIS RESOURCES CAN BEST BE USED. TURKEY HAS GREAT RESPECT FOR THE ABILITY AND PROFESSIONALISM OF AMERICAN AND WEST GERMAN POLICE FORCES, OZAL SAID, AND IT LOOKS TO THEM AS MODELS. IF POSSIBLE, HE SAID, HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY

TO MEET WITH A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND FBI) WHO HAS HAD WIDE EXPERIENCE IN MANAGEMENT OF POLICE FORCES TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH HIM THE TURKISH SITUATION AND THE KIND OF IMPROVEMENTS WHICH ARE PRACTICAL.

3. I OUTLINED FOR THE MINISTER THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON TRAINING OF FOREIGN POLICE (REFTEL). I ALSO INDICATED THE EXCEPTIONS AND SAID THAT I WOULD CONVEY HIS REQUEST FOR A HIGH LEVEL, EXPERIENCED VISITOR TO WASHINGTON. IT APPEARS THAT WHAT HE HAS ASKED DOES NOT FALL IN ANY PRECLUDED CATEGORY, SINCE HE SEEMS TO BE SEEKING BROAD ADVICE AS HELP IN ORDERING HIS OWN PRIORITIES. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE MINISTER'S REQUEST AND HOPE THAT WE CAN RESPOND IN A POSITIVE WAY QUICKLY. I BELIEVE THAT A SHORT VISIT TO ANKARA BY A HIGH LEVEL, BROADLY EXPERIENCED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS MEASURES TO MODERNIZE TURKEY'S POLICE (WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A RETURN VISIT BY THE MINISTER AT A LATER DATE) WOULD BE HELPFUL TO TURKEY AND WOULD SUPPORT OUR POLICY GOALS OF STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES AND TURKEY'S COMMITMENT TO THE WEST.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE ON WHEN AND WHO MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO MEET INTERIOR MINISTER'S REQUEST WHICH WE BELIEVE IS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR NARCOTICS OBJECTIVES AS WELL AS OUR DESIRE TO SEE THIS ALLY ENABLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO MAINTAIN STABLE DEMOCRACY.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICE FORCES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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